

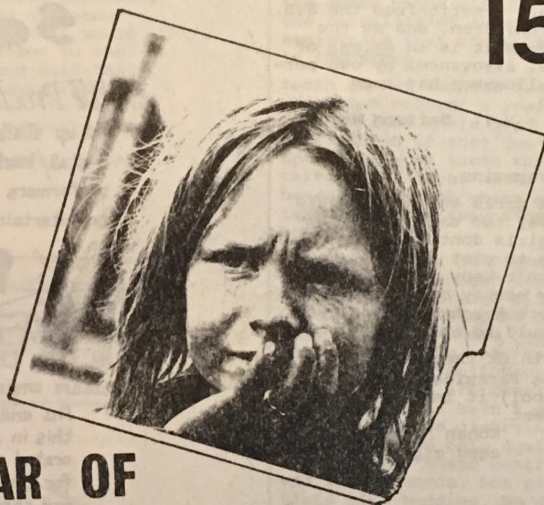
GRAPEVINE

Cambridge's Community Paper

No 10.

may-june '79

15p



YEAR OF
THE

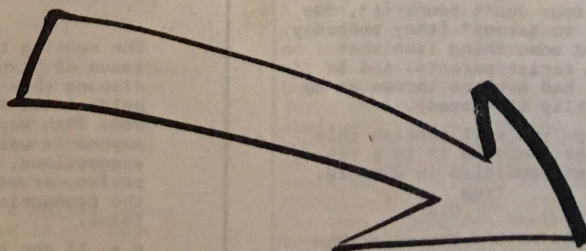


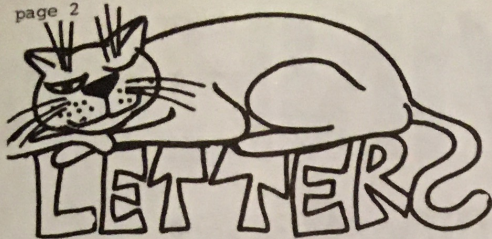
INTERNATIONAL

CHILD

In This Issue

Local news Trouble at Marshall's
A nuclear power station near Cambridge?
Powley: an assessment Men against
Sexism A housing policy for Cambridge
. More about Arjuna. National Front
take a hammering and numerous other things





Dear Grapevine,

I was interested to read the letter about social security in the last Grapevine, as I am a single parent with two young children.

Recently the government raised the level of child benefit for single parents, so this now exceeds the allowance per child made by the D.H.S.S. The result is that I no longer receive any benefit from the S.S. for my children, and as the child benefit is in excess of the S.S. allowance, my own personal allowance has been reduced.

M.T. Saffron Walden

Dear Grapevine,

I think girls and boys should both play the same sport, because girls don't know what it is like to play football and boys don't know what it is like to play hockey or netball. If they were taught to I'm sure they would be able to.

p.s. I think they should be cause at Parkside and St. Paul's (my school) it isn't allowed at the moment.

Ronan Macdonald
aged eight

at my school we have to walk to the dinner hall and class 1 can have their dinner at the school.

ki macdonald (aged 5)

Dear Grapevine,

I am eight years old and Jewish. One time at school assembly a teacher was talking about Easter. Another teacher then brought out two pieces of Matzo (unleavened bread) and started talking about Passover. I was the only one who could answer her questions. She asked me if I was Jewish and I said yes. She asked me many things about Judaism.

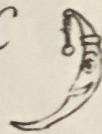
Since then I have been called "Bloody Jew" four times, "fuck off Jew" twice, "That's disgusting, don't touch it", "Go back to Israel" (they probably heard some thing like that from racist parents. And I have had a stone thrown at me (luckily it missed).

I hope you will publish this letter, because it is a taste of anti-semitism in schools.

from
Clare

Clare's mother comments: The teachers at the school have been sympathetic to Clare's problem. But if they will teach at Easter that the Jews killed Jesus, what can they expect?

with kind approval of Cambridge C.C



Sixth

Strawberry Fair

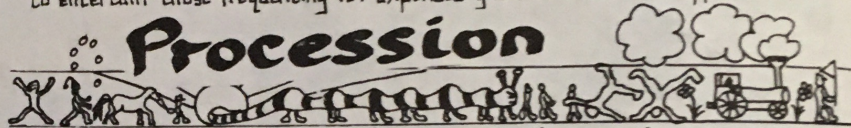
Proclamation

A yearly gathering of performers, entertainers, artisans
craftsmen, children and the like on

MIDSUMMER COMMON CAMBRIDGE

Saturday June 9th

We Proclaim: that artisans, craftsmen + makers of goods are invited to: set up stalls + displays at this fayre. Each craftsman is called upon to erect a stall/booth, for which we ask a toll. Pull on from Friday afternoon: THAT's performers and showmen of every variety are called on to attend this fayre so as to entertain those frequenting it: expenses granted to suitable applicants.



IN THE City of CAMBRIDGE: featuring: the FEARFUL DRAGON, pianos, steam engines, barrel organs, clowns.....

All and sundry requested to join in this in bright attire, and to bring decorated carts, prams, horses and bicycles for the occasion. Other processional and carnival items welcome.

Able bodied persons required to set up + man such rustic sports as Ducking for Apples, Bash the RAT, Tip the Rail etc. There will be competitions with Prizes in Sports, Yards of Ale, Tug o' WAR etc.

MAYPOLE, COUNTRY, INTERNATIONAL etc. DANCERS REQUIRED.
FOOD + REFRESHMENT CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE FOR TENDERERS.

ANY PROCEEDS TO LOCAL

PROJECTS FOR CHILDREN.

TEL. 64845: CAMBRIDGE MAYDAY GROUP 12, Mill Road, Cambridge

GRAPEVINE

The meeting to plan the next issue of Grapevine and to discuss this issue will be held at 41a Fitzroy St on Wed. 30th May at 8 pm.

Anyone is welcome with ideas suggestions, criticisms or praise, or offers of help with the production of the next issue.

p.s. If you think you missed the April issue - well you didn't, we did.

You can buy Grapevine at the following shops:

Arjuna, 12 Mill Rd.
Dillons Bookshop, Silver St.
Browne's Bookshop, Mill Rd.
The Bookshop, Magdalene St.
The Post Office, Castle St.
Potters, Fitzroy St.
Waffles, Fitzroy St.
Anarchist bookstall, CCAT, outside canteen, Thursdays 11 - 2.

Newsagents:

White's, Kings Parade
Baker's, Arts Cinema Passage
Gray's, Trumpington St.
Ladd's, Bradwell's Court
Beedell's, Mill Rd. Bridge
Newnham newsagents, 38 Newnham Rd.
Lambert and Ward, 46 Hills Rd.
Norfolk St. Newsagents.
Sainsbury's, Brooks Rd./Coldhams Lane

Thanks to all these shops for stocking the magazine.

Grapevine
c/o 10 Kimberley Rd.,
Cambridge. Tel: 65449

NEWS



The local election on May 3rd resulted in a dramatic change for Cambridge City Council. The Conservatives lost two seats - one to Labour and one to the Liberals - reducing their number of seats from 22 to 20, and losing their overall control of the 42 seat council.

John Powley (see our obituary page), leader of the Tory group, lost his seat in Castle ward to David Pickles, a liberal. News of his defeat was received with jubilation by groups which have opposed

Powley's Kite redevelopment scheme.

Powley's defeat shows the continuing local opposition to the scheme. In last year's elections the Conservatives lost their seat in Market Ward (which includes the Kite area) in a landslide defeat by Margaret Reiss, who stood as an independent explicitly on the issue of Kite redevelopment. The Tories also lost a seat in a neighbouring ward - Petersfield - to a Labour candidate whose opposition to the redevelopment was a major part of his electoral platform.

This trend shows an increasingly strong opposition to the redevelopment from the electorate. The Labour group on the Council have to some extent committed themselves to opposing the scheme, and have gained a lot of votes and a couple of seats by doing so.

A Labour electoral pledge for the Petersfield Ward this year says "we shall do all that we legally can to alter the Council's course in its plans for the Kite".

In a letter to the Kite Coordinating Council (the main local organisation which has been campaigning against the redevelopment), Doris Howe, leader of the Labour group on the council, said that she thought that the sort of development envisaged by Powley did not belong in a town like Cambridge.

With Powley gone, the way might seem clear for successful opposition to the redevelopment. This will depend, to begin with, on the allocation of seats to the various crucial sub-committees of the council. This question was discussed at a City Board meeting on 8th May. If Labour, who have 18 seats on full council, vote with the Liberals (3 seats) and the independent (1 seat) - who are strongly opposed to the Kite redevelopment scheme - then they can outvote the Tories (20 seats) on this issue. However, there are doubts about how united the Labour group will be in carrying out its pledge to oppose the Kite redevelopment. At a meeting of Labour councillors at the

weekend after the election, a motion proposing a pact with the Liberals was rejected; and it was even proposed by Jack Warren that there should be a pact with the conservatives, although this was also defeated.

At the same meeting it was agreed that the labour group should press for a renegotiation with Grosvenor Estates, the firm which has been contracted to undertake the redevelopment. There are doubts about the possible legal problems involved in renegotiating the contract to which the previous council has committed the City. However Lisa Jardine of KCC told Grapevine that she was optimistic on this point, and said that legal advice which the Labour group was currently taking indicated that "one can be hopeful that there will be ways of getting round the contract". She was also confident that the attitude of Labour members of the Council would be one of opposition to the redevelopment, and said that the KCC will be watching very closely indeed for the slightest sign of any wavering from this position.

Gwil Colenso

BIKE RALLY FOR SAFER CYCLING
2.30, 10th June, Trafalgar Square. For details ring FoE on 312800. A special train is being arranged: £3.25 with bike.

BATTERED WOMEN NEED REFUGES

The National Women's Aid Federation National Conference was held this year at Netherhall School in Cambridge.

400 women and 200 children from refuges all over the country were here over the weekend of 4,5,6 May. Accommodation was provided by many people in the city, and during the day 3 creches were run for different age groups at Netherhall Upper and Lower Schools and Overstream House.

The National conference is the only policy making body of the federation, and therefore plays a central role in determining the future direction of the movement.

The Cambridge refuge and support group did an amazing amount of work getting the whole thing organised, and they are to be congratulated for maintaining their sanity and keeping everything running smoothly.

We hope to have a fuller report on the conference in our next issue.

Distrain

A recent Shelter report on "Distrain" names Cambridge City Council, East Cambs. District Council, and South Cambs. District Council as frequent users of the law of distraint against council tenants.

The law is a medieval relic which gives councils the right to seize property - furniture, electrical goods, etc - if a council tenant falls behind on his rent. The important fact about distraint is that the council doesn't have to go to a court before sending in the bailiffs to seize property. If the Council Housing department decides that a particular tenant hasn't got a good excuse, they can seize goods without even the formality of convincing a magistrate that the tenant is in the wrong.

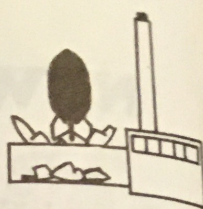
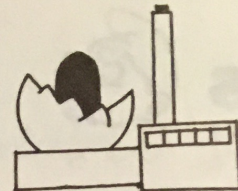
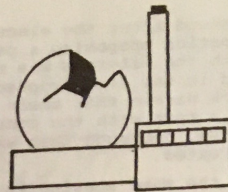
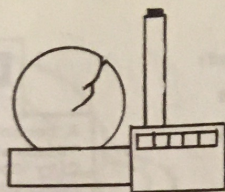
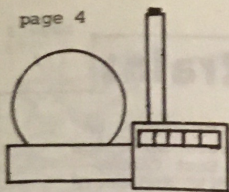
South Cambs. Council issue 150 "Distress orders" a year, warning tenants that their goods will be confiscated if they don't pay up. About 1/3 of these threats are carried out. That means one household a week where a bailiff takes property away from the occupants.

According to Mr. Robinson, deputy housing manager at the Guildhall, Cambridge City Council use this power quite responsibly. He told Grapevine that only if the rent collector, the chief rent collector and his department are convinced that the tenant hasn't got a good excuse, is distraint used, and then only against things like "music centres" and luxury goods, not essentials like bedding. He admitted that there was scope for irresponsible use of distraint, but said that his department did not abuse its power; and that in any case, the tenant had 14 days to reclaim his/her property before it was disposed of. Try and imagine what would happen if a council tenant decided that the council weren't making good repairs to his home, seized a typewriter from the housing department, and then sold it off to pay for the repairs. But that's how distraint would work if tenants had the same power.

In a situation where a tenant was withholding rent because repairs weren't being done, would the rent collector think that the tenant had a good excuse for not paying? The point is that it is a court which should decide on the rights and wrongs of the matter.

Of course, there are some bloody minded tenants who don't have a good reason for not paying rent. But there is often wrong on both sides, and it shouldn't be up to the Housing Department to be judge and jury. Distrain should be abolished - as a proposed housing act, scrapped because of the recent election, would have abolished it. And councils should stop using it; they should get their tenants to pay rent in less heavy-handed ways.

Phil



DENVER ?

In 1966 the inspectors of the Central Electricity Generating Board approved a site of 300 acres at Denver, near Downham Market (about 25 miles from Cambridge) for possible use as a site for a nuclear power station.

A year later the CEGB bought this site. But it wasn't until 1978 that the plans were made public in the Norfolk County Council structure plan, at the insistence of the CEGB.

If the power station was to be built, excellent farming land would be lost; a continual supply of large quantities of cooling water would be needed, and eight 350 foot cooling towers would dominate the area. This is quite apart from the usual objections to any nuclear power stations (they're dangerous, expensive, and create plutonium waste which is dangerous for thousands of years; the money would be better spent on insulation projects, which create jobs and don't endanger lives).

As recently as December 1977 the CEGB officially "scotched" any rumours that such plans were in the pipeline, and prospective property buyers of property in the area were not told of the proposed development. This despite the fact that the local Conservative M.P., Paul Hawkins, had known "confidentially" of the scheme up to ten years ago.

As Mr. Alan Rosenberg, defeated Labour candidate and outspoken critic of the scheme, has said: "We may have to fight this scheme for the next ten years, so we may as well start now".

Barbara Searle



TORNESS !

Several people from Cambridge went up to Torness in Scotland from May 4th to 6th to protest against the proposed nuclear power station there. Grapevine asked some of them to talk about Torness:

The occupation was organised by the Torness alliance (all the groups opposed to the nuclear power plant) at a cost of £5,000 and a lot of headaches.

Organisation was prominent and slightly alienating. The campsite was set out in the regions of Britain; each group had a spokesperson who went to the meetings, a support person to help those arrested. There was training in non-violent direct action, even one-to-one encounters on "Why did you come to Torness?" Some came simply for the festival, some to occupy non-violently, and some who were just plain angry at what the state was doing. The occupation was planned for Monday.

On Saturday night the organisation was upset. People appeared in a van, a large crowd gathered, announced that the fence had been cut in several places, and called for an occupation.

The Torness alliance were now forced to hold their own meeting, the main question being whether to cut the fence or go under or over it. This took a long time to sort out, some saying that they wouldn't even occupy if the fence was touched!

Bales of Hay were provided by a local farmer and a bridge made over the fence. The occupation began. Some people blocked off the main gate so that the police couldn't enter. But the whole site wasn't occupied, there still remained the inner compound, where the huts and earth-wrecking machinery stood. In a burst of anger and energy a section of fence was torn down, the only spontaneous event of the whole day. Damage was done inside the compound. People arrived from the hill a mile away and just shouted Out Out Out to those inside. Speeches were made. A meeting was held on the hill to decide what we were all to do next: "It was democratically decided not to destroy" someone said. "Fuck You" came the reply.

Last year things were peaceful. This year people were very upset over the damage done. Will the occupation stop the construction? Torness was a success in that it turned a lot of people on to the evils of nuclear power, and I for one will return next time. It brought Torness onto the TV screen, but will it halt the plans? There was a very big split between the non-violent and the angry. But how will those who dogmatically believe in non-violence feel when the only answer to Torness is to tear it apart piece by piece? Fight the Power

Cambridge Torness Alliance
Meeting at the bath house on
Tue 22nd may at 8pm All welcome.

NÖTSÖSMÄRT

Defenders of the "Free enterprise" system like to boast that it gets things done, whereas publicly owned industries get bogged down in a mass of useless bureaucracy. And a group called The Campaign against Building Industry Nationalisation, which proclaims the virtues of the private building industry, has recently been making a lot of noise.

Well, private builders have been making a right old mess of bits of Cambridge lately. On Histon Rd. there stand a large number of half-finished houses, which a building firm called Smart's was constructing for the council. Smart's went bankrupt earlier this year, and the council have been unable to find a builder who will finish the job at a reasonable price - this after paying Smart's 1.3 million out of the £1.7 million agreed for the con-

tract. A smaller number of houses lie uncompleted on Vicarage Terrace, where Smart's was in the process of building them for Granta Housing Association.

Smart's basically went bust because they were putting in unrealistic bids for contracts to get work. Apart from the people of Cambridge, the ones who suffer are those who had shares in Smart's, which are now worthless. No doubt Mr. Smart himself has something stashed away for a rainy day.

The fierce competition in the building industry is what has led to this mess. If the Council had had a decent direct labour force, this wouldn't have happened: see the obituary page for more about this. Another Cambridge construction company, Kerridge's construction recently went bust too, increasing unemployment in the area.

What price the free enterprise system, folks? Pat

MARSHALL LAW DECLARED

page 5

The series of events that follow are true and took place at Marshalls of Cambridge during 1978 - 79. As some of the people still work there their names have been omitted for obvious reasons. The story is a tale of rank and file action and its suppression by a dictatorial management and "sensible" shop stewards and their convenor!

Everybody in Cambridge knows of Marshalls and how 'Sir Arthur' owns it. Every active trade unionist also knows the name of Marshalls convenor and what's more relevant, how he gerrymandered his own and his friends' elections. Also well-known is the fact that the said convenor is a virulent 'anti-communist' to the point of paranoia. Now that we have set the stage, let battle commence.

SCENE 1

An aircraft hangar containing 20 workers building aircraft wings. This figure is soon to be increased to over 100 so naturally those already there want their own shop steward. (preferably an active one, not in the management's or the convenor's pocket). To this end, a few of the aircraft workers start discussions on the subject; bring in Rank & File Trade Union papers and stickers and generally stir things up..

A brother is found who will stand for Shop Steward and he is militant and prepared to fight. (He is not a left-winger, he is in fact, a part-time Special Policeman but is also 'anti the convenor' a point in his favour!)

SCENE 2

Three days before his 3 month probationary period is up, on of the 'stirrers' (a semi-skilled fitter) is told that his work is not up to standard and he will have to leave the department and MAYBE he will be found other work. His non-suitability is based on one job not done properly but his fellow worker on the same job is not even spoken to.

SCENE 3

The prospective shop steward mentioned earlier is taken out of the department the day before the elections! The reason given is that he is a 'disruptive influence' on the young trainees!! (These are lads who missed out on getting apprenticeships and are employed by Marshalls for peanuts.)

SCENE 3

A nearby shop steward is approached to organise a fightback to retain the prospective shop steward but with delaying tactics, promises and outright refusals, manages to do nothing!

SCENE 4

The semi-skilled fitter who by this time has been fixed up with another job (In a tin-hut right across the other side of the works working with 3 other fitters, as their labourer!), is seen writing on the union notice board by a rate-fixer and reported to his supervisor. His short message on the board is directed at his foreman and supervisor telling them not to remove notices from the union notice board! (They have in the past pulled them off and ripped them up! He is given a bollocking by supervisor and management and told to await a decision on whether he is going to be sacked or not! His rights as a member of a democratic society are scorned and he is told in a, uncertain manner that he has NO rights at Marshalls. Two hours later he is told that he will be transferred to his tin hut as agreed (out of harm's way) but that he is on a further 2 weeks probation and unless a marked improvement in his attitude to work and his output are shown then he will be sacked;

SCENE 5

Another stirrer, 2 hours after the very last even described is also hauled up in front of the management and told that he had better find another job as he is not wanted at Marshalls with his political ideas! Protests from the worker that he work is faultless are dismissed as irrelevant and he is told to start looking for another job!

SCENE 6

The 'ex-prospective' shop steward (now on a dirty job in another part of the works) informs the personnel manager that he is suing him in a civil court for "Deformation of Character" (ref to his effect on the young trainees).

SCENE 7

The convenor hurries over to our ex-prospective shop steward and asks him if he would like to be an inspector!?! (In exchange for what, I wonder!!!!). He is told NO and storms off very upset.

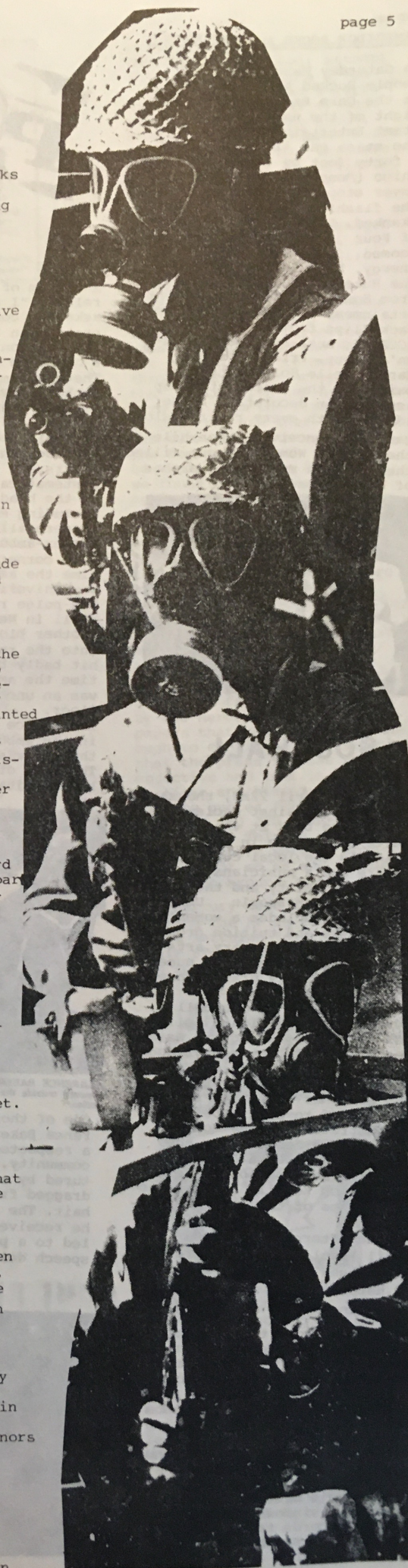
SCENE 8

Well, there is no Scene 8 yet, that is still to come, but i could be literally anything. It's no accident that during the above described events, wage negotiations have been going on between the management and the convenor. (The membership by the way, have not been involved at any time in the negotiations!)

So what looked like a growing centre of rank and file scrutiny at a crucial time and place has been stamped upon in no uncertain terms. The true face of capitalism and right wing convenors has been revealed once again!

This is not the end however, as people can be moved, sacked or bought out, but ideas once planted have a habit of growing and this time, I think the soil is just about right.

Ned Bakunin



CAMBRIDGE ROCKS AGAINST RACISM

On Saturday March 17th, 950 people Rocked Against Racism at the Corn Exchange, opening night of the nationwide Militant Entertainment Tour '79. The stage was illuminated with a forty foot by thirty foot red rhino ("once a rhino starts it never stops") which vibrated in the flashing lights as Misty skanked, the Ruts rutted, Gang of Four jerked and Red Express zoomed, filling the hall with energy. More active members of the Ruts Appreciation Society from Southall added to the entertainment with swallow dives & back flips from the stage. ACCARAF, Anti-Apartheid, Women's Group, Friends of the Earth, Chile Solidarity Campaign and the Anarchist group assisted in decorating badge addicts with every radical slogan ever conceived. Meanwhile the Chilean Women's Group filled the air with mysterious aromas of hot empanadas.



MISTY

SOUTHALL

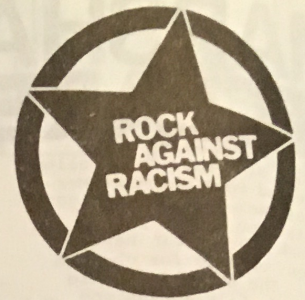
By Sunday April 22nd, thousands had Rocked Against Racism - Misty were back at the People Unite collective in Southall which is the local community centre and a musicians co-op, where both Misty and the Ruts are based. The People Unite Community includes a women's Law Centre and tuition groups in mechanics, carpentry, arts and crafts, literacy and numeracy, Black history, drama, dance and photography.

On that Sunday in Southall, a number of cultural and political groups including the Asian Southall Youth Movement, brought together by a series of racist murders and clashes with both the National Front and the police, decided to hold a peaceful demonstration on the Monday against the decision by the local council to allow an NF election meeting to go ahead - a decision totally contrary to the wishes of the local community.

On the afternoon of Monday 23rd April Peoples Unite Centre was being used by lawyers and medics helping those who required assistance after suffering

at the hands of the five thousand police who were present. By the end of the afternoon the centre had been systematically smashed up by the Special Patrol Group and many members of the collective arrested or badly injured by the police after the SPG had forced their way into the centre. All of Misty's and the musicians co-operative's equipment was destroyed, windows and fittings broken, records taken from their sleeves and smashed.

People Unite



A victim of the police violence relates: "I am a doctor. I was asked to come to the First Aid station, in Southall on Sunday. The station was in a room in a house in Park View Avenue. There was myself, a lawyer and a bloke who was an ambulance man for six years. Also several other people.

The police came in, beating down the door. They herded us downstairs, and in the hall they systematically hit each of us in the head with a truncheon, including myself.

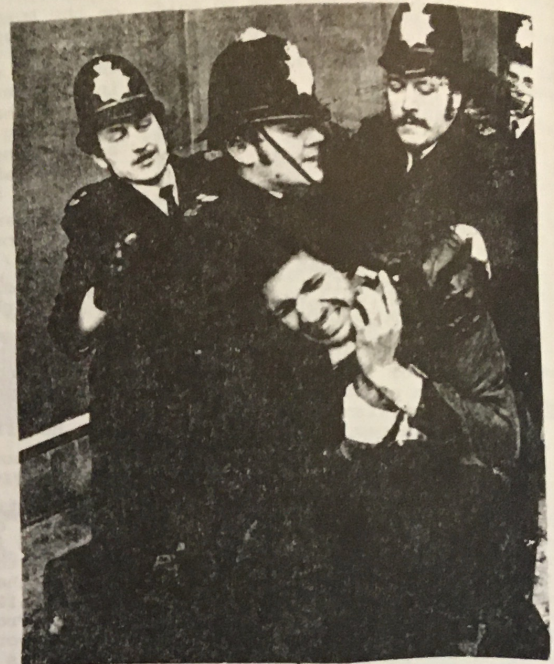
We were all bleeding from this. The ex-ambulance driver I saw in a corner whimpering - by the time the ambulance arrived he was shivering, unconscious - and his pulse rate over 120. He is still in New Ealing Hospital. Another bloke, black, was shoved into the room. He also had been hit badly by the police. By the time the ambulance came he also was an unconscious heap on the floor.

The police refused to put him in the ambulance - they said that he was shamming. The rest of us were taken to the hospital. I had six stitches."



CLARENCE BAKER (far left, with loud-hailer) acts as a steward outside the Peoples Unite Centre the police action.

One of those injured was Clarence Baker, Misty's manager and a respected youth leader in the community. His skull was fractured by a truncheon and he was dragged from the building by his hair. The resulting blood clot he received on his brain has led to a possibly permanent speech defect.



Melody Maker: "All the work put in to gathering equipment for the People Unite creative arts and education centre has been literally demolished by the police Special Patrol Group."

New Musical Express: "His (Baker's) injuries are almost identical, we're told, to those sustained by Blair Peach, the New Zealand teacher and Anti-Nazi League member who later died as a result. Baker's injuries were reportedly received only a half hour before Peach's."

Popular Press and Television focussed on the injured policemen "with families".

A member of Misty: "Because we weren't prepared to lick their boots they had to mash up what we're doin'."

"After what I saw on Monday I can only see the police force as a rod of oppression. . ."

Contact People Unite Defence Fund, 45 Lea Rd., Southall.



CAMBRIDGE

ACCARAF was geared up for intensive activity during the election. We knew that the National Front Nazis were going to put up around 300 candidates around the country, and that their message of hate would go out in the national and local media. So when the time came, we were ready.

A day after the forthcoming election was announced, we stocked up with 40,000 leaflets from the Anti Nazi League. We then worked hard to find a couple of hundred people to help distribute them to every house in Cambridge. The leafletting took place on the evening of May 1st. We got soaked by driving rain, but the enthusiasm of the volunteers was tremendous, and the job got done. ACCARAF activists were helped by Labour and Liberal party members. Our heartfelt thanks to all those who helped and to Cambridge Labour Party for letting us put the cost of the leaflets on their election expenses.

On the day before the leafletting we were surprised to see a large advert by the NF candidate on page 3 of the C.E.N. After expressing our concern to the paper, they agreed to let us put in our own advert, warning people that the NF appears respectable, but in fact they spread fear and violence and are a dangerous threat to freedom.

Members of the Campaign joined with ANL comrades from Peterborough in leafletting an estate in Huntingdon, where the NF were also standing a candidate. And some of us, in an excess of zeal went down to leaflet several tower blocks in Hackney an area rife with racism where Tyndall, the NF Führer, was a candidate. Earlier, 23 of us had zoomed up to Leicester. (See Anne's article for more on this).

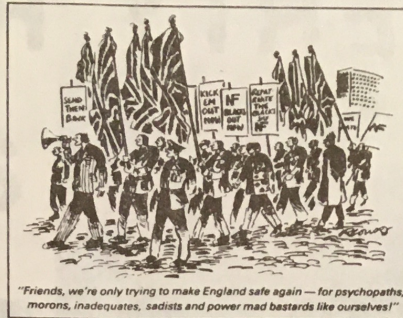
Throughout this time we continued to leaflet and sell badges and papers on Saturdays in Petty Cury. CSU, after consulting ACCARAF's steering committee, produced a leaflet for students warning them about the dangers of Fascism in Cambridge (taken from the article in Grapevine 9 - wish they'd said so).

The NF vote in Cambridge was 311, compared with 700 in the 1976 by-election - despite a much greater turn out. Their vote was down everywhere, but they still received 191,000 in the whole country. That means a lot of people who either don't know or don't care that they're supporting a bunch of Nazis. So there is still an awful lot of work to be done.

And now the bad news

ACCARAF has always had a broader educational aim as well as the aim of actively opposing the NF. For this reason we planned a workshop on how to talk to people who express racist ideas in the school or the workplace, by countering myths with facts. Speakers were invited from all over England and hundreds of people were sent letters; but we've had to cancel the workshop because only nine people applied to take part.

Geoff Harris



LEICESTER

"Front march on as police fight back mob", ran the headline in the Leicester Mercury on April 21st. The paper told of how a "mob" of 350 or so antifascists had tried to disrupt a 2000 strong National Front march through the city.

I might have believed some of this (for example the numbers involved) had I not been there. In actual fact the Mercury's reporting of the events read as if they had made up their minds what to write before it happened.

What did happen at Leicester is a different story altogether. The day was supposed to start with a rally in Victoria Park, called by the Community Relations Council, to demonstrate the opposition to the NF march, especially in Leicester, with its large immigrant population, and to avoid a direct confrontation between the NF and protesters in the streets.

A number of Anti-Nazi League branches, including the Cambridge branch, decided instead to assemble at a couple of points where the march was believed to be routed. At one of these points an attempt to rush police lines (which had us hemmed in on all sides) allowed a mere 20 people to get through to the National Front.

The police then decided to let us move away down the street, where after a pitched battle between the more irate demonstrators and police intent on protecting the NF somewhere behind them, both groups of anti-fascists met up.

The most spectacular moment of the whole afternoon was when 60 or so policemen

suddenly turned and fled from the crowd after their attempt at violence towards a demonstrator had provoked a reprisal. For a while after this everyone was running about, completely disorganised, being chased, or imagining they were being chased, by the police, who seemed to be trying to hedge us in somewhere.

Eventually the police managed to control themselves, and stood by peacefully to allow us to walk past them to Victoria Park and the University campus. An impromptu rally was held there, where we congratulated ourselves upon the fact that the NF had not been allowed to march through Leicester unopposed, that their march had had to be rerouted from the first corner it came to; and that we had by far outnumbered them. Just as the coming NF march through Southall was being discussed we found ourselves running again. Nobody was really sure why, but it appeared that the police had started closing in on the crowd with their riot shields. Those unfortunate to be the last to escape were savaged by either policemen or their dogs, and at least two people had their legs ripped open by the alsatians. Nobody understood why this happened.

Events of the day were so different from those reported by the Mercury and other newspapers that this should be enough to confirm anyone's doubts that the press is less than objective and that it is infact partisan and biased. Take the numbers quoted for example: 2,000 NF and 350 counter-demonstrators. This is utter rubbish; there were no more than 350 or so NF and we must have been around 2,000.

The Mercury were intent on portraying the NF as brave democrats marching to preserve their rights against the brutal and unwarranted opposition of a



small and ineffective group of left-wing extremists. This was a total distortion of the real facts.

To be fair, the coverage given by the television was better, with the BBC giving a slightly more accurate report than Anglia. Some newspapers gave a less distorted coverage than the Mercury.

So next time you see the emotive words 'Left wing' or 'extremists' used in a press story - be careful!

- Anne



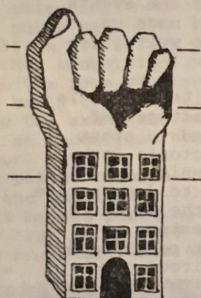
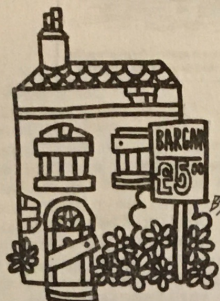
PROPERTY RITES —

Cambridge City has an acute housing shortage. What housing there is, is often inadequate. But there doesn't seem to be any political will to recognise this, let alone do anything about it.

There are still about 400 empty properties in or near the city centre (Empty Property Action Group Survey, March 1979). The new estates to the north of King's Hedges are half-complete and look like staying that way. Most private lets of reasonable price are substandard, with severe restrictions of use.

In December 1978 there were 3,275 families on the local authority waiting list (Shelter Report: Buy Up, Brick Up and Demolish). The number of young single people (not only students) who are without suitable accommodation is considerable. Despite this, housing was hardly an issue in the recent election (except the callous letter from Mrs. Thatcher to a council house tenant which caused such a stink).

The demolition of nos. 4-14 James St. last month prompted a motion to the City Council. The motion drew attention to Government circulars of 1974 and 1977 urging constructive use of empty property, and suggested that the city should not dispose of empty property until the last possible moment. The motion was deferred to several sub-committees, but is still to be debated by the council. With the change of power on the council we are hoping for more rational decisions. (It is well

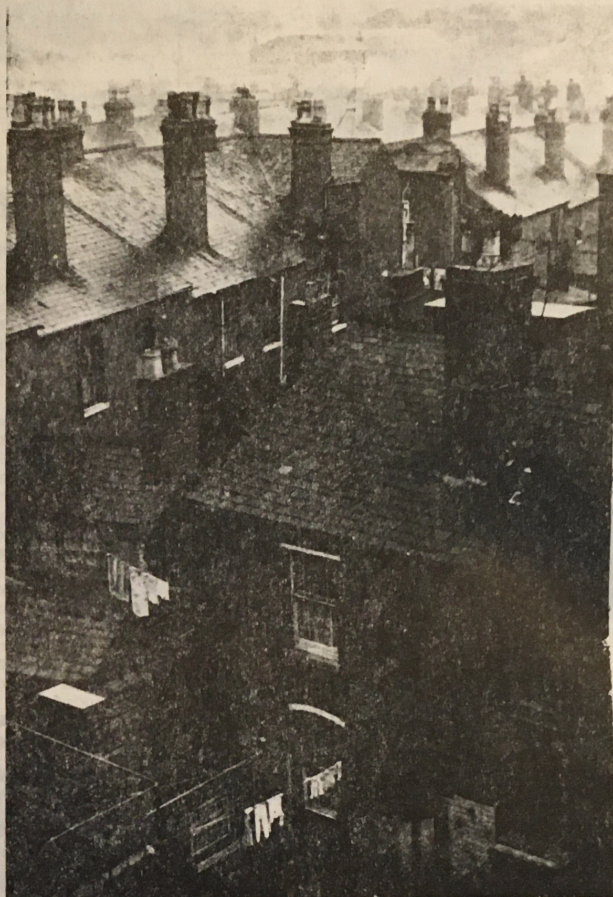


worth lobbying your councillors to support this motion. All this needs is phone call or a letter to express your concern about homelessness and the waste of the housing stock.

Nearly 150 empty properties are in the Kite area, and not just the blighted part. The environment minister in the last government wrote to Cambridge City Council criticising it for its management of empty property in the Fitzroy/Burleigh area, particularly the policy of prior demolition. It is not surprising that good homes are squatted, both to save the area's character and to provide homes. There is nothing to stop the council letting these properties on a short-term basis, even the sub-standard ones - bad homes are better than no homes.

Another problem is a potentially "difficult to let" council estate in the Akeman St./Darwin Drive area. These houses have been used by the council for people whom it considers to be bad tenants. The area is increasingly unpopular among home seekers, presumably because of the stigma attached and the shoddy services. Many inner city boroughs have prepared policies for such areas, including letting houses to single people on a short-term basis. If the number of empty properties continues to rise, then the city might bear this in mind.

General Improvement Areas don't seem to be all that they might be. Over the past two years the number of empty properties in both Prospect Row and St. Matthews GIA's has doubled. This is partly due to the large scale renovation of old terrace houses; but this surely cannot help the social life of an area. A new and more affluent population is moving into the area, supported financially by the council;



although many grants are also given to residents of long standing. The neighbourhood associations in the GIA's are doing good work. But the improvements in these areas have been less than might reasonably be desired. Acute staff shortages at the Guildhall have not helped.

Two years after the first EPAG empty property survey in Cambridge it is possible to identify a number of empty buildings which are privately owned and which the owner has no intention of using. This may be because the owner is out of the country, dead, insane or incompetent. Such waste should not be allowed while there are homeless people. The council has the power to compulsorily purchase such properties.

A considered housing policy for the whole city is needed; and wasted resources, such as empty property, should be used better. More enlightened councils have a much better record. A sense of urgency, and a little imagination, are what is needed.

BROTHER JULIAN

AND WRONGS ?

Now that the Tories have lost overall control of the council, and Powley has lost his seat, it is time to ask whether the new council will take a more reasonable attitude towards the Kite.

Under Powley, the council pursued a ruthless policy of boarding up, gutting or demolishing property agreed for the Kite redevelopment but not needed for at least a year. Their attitude towards squatters was just as hostile: general harassment, eviction and the disconnection of water, gas and electricity.

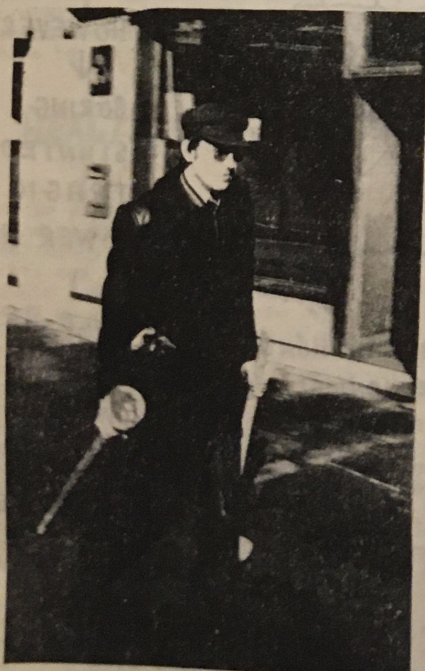
It is to be hoped that the remaining Conservative councillors will take a more reasonable attitude. It remains to be seen how the other two parties will implement their election promises now that they have at least a share of the power.

The Labour candidate for Market Ward, which includes the Kite, was Mike Gunn, chairperson of the city Labour party. He wrote in his election handout that "The unnecessary demolition of habitable houses over a year before any rebuilding would start is scandalous and spiteful" and "The number of council owned properties that stand empty is a disgrace".



Trevor Watson

Yesterday this was someone's home



John Isherwood, council officer from the Surveyor's Dept., armed to break down the front door of a newly squatted house. Luckily this time he was thwarted.

Similarly the Mirror, the news-sheet of Market Ward Labour party, reported in March 1979 that "The (ex) Labour Government has now ordered the Tory (ex) council to stop this gutting process. Homeless people ("squatters") are in the meantime improving empty council owned buildings and are making good temporary use of them". We are very pleased at the sympathetic and intelligent attitude of the local Labour party, and hope and trust that they will be able to convince the more sluggish of their city colleagues to see the situation in the same light.

Meanwhile the Liberals have been equally eloquent and unequivocal in their support for "short term tenancies and help for single and childless people". Lavena Hawes, Liberal councillor for Market Ward, has been active in trying to pressure the council to use their empty properties and issue licences to people already occupying them. She and Margaret Reiss, independent councillor for Market Ward, have given a lot of practical support to squatters in the past.

So we can hope for a more sober and rational approach to squatters from the new council.

"James St" lives on.

Squatters from 7 houses in James St. were evicted in April and given nowhere else to live. They inevitably decided to squat somewhere else and are now living in a single storey office complex on Hamilton Rd. This building was used by the Dept. of the Environment as a driving test centre and previously by the Inland Revenue. It has been empty for several years, and is an ideal place for the 15 or so people who wanted to continue living together.

DoE officials visited the squat once, appeared completely flabbergasted, and have not been back. Meanwhile negotiations are in progress with the Water and Electricity boards over reconnection charges and the payment of deposits. It looks as tho' there are no insurmountable problems, and that the offices will soon be even more comfortable than they already are.

Islay Currie

"The realisation of how sexism isolates men by repressing their tenderness can be very depressing. I was with Tommy aged 5 and Garry aged 8 and we'd been having a really good time. Tommy took Garry's hand gently, to be met with bewilderment and fear from Garry, who rapidly pulled his hand away.

Tommy (age 5): "Are you hard?"

Tim (age 26): "Well my bones are hard and my skin is soft."

Tommy: "I'm hard. Boys are hard and girls are soft. Boys can beat girls up because they're strong."

Tim: "I knew a girl who was a good fighter. Her name was Jane. Sometimes she beat boys up, but sometimes she didn't fight."

Tommy: "No she didn't. Girls aren't good fighters."

However Tommy still retreats to me for comfort when the aggression of his peers distresses him. He is not afraid to cry. But for how much longer?"

"Now I'm at the disco and I think I've got a pull... I say I'll see you later and I give her some old chat, but it's not like that on T.V. where it's cool for cats. (Squeeze: 'Cool for Cats'.) "How often have I patronised women because I didn't regard them as people, but just something to get into bed. No doubt they saw through my act? I felt insecure in putting on the act because I'm not very good at it. However at the same time my preoccupation with 'getting a pull' led me to regard other men as unloveable and as of only marginal influence to my state of happiness. But this group has confirmed my belief that my man friends are people I can be close to, and they are important to me. I no longer regard the time I spend with them as interfering with my plans to meet the women I hope to 'pull'. And hopefully my motive for spending time with women will increasingly be because I like them as people, and I'll be prepared for the relationship to evolve which ever way it will without trying to manipulate it to a preconceived goal."

"What is a man? The hunter, the fighter, the shouter - the oppressor. Men rule in our society - laws made by them and for them, women always the 'other' sex, comforters and servants, appendages to the 'real' people. And I don't like that, don't like what my gender entails. Ah, but how to back out of my privileges? Those huge, blatant inequalities - those almost imperceptible attitudes and assumptions of MINE, slowly beginning to notice things. And, at the same time, to see new options. A Men's Group? After all those years of male schooling the thought sickened me. Men the enemy - but I'm one too. To be able to talk about the things that mattered - with men? 'Fellow men'? Competing/boasting/incapable of touching/hiding behind STANCES, ISSUES - that cold hard big wide MALE world, and spilling all the goo of fears and insecurities and love and hate and FEELINGS onto women, assuming all-enveloping support."

After the Men's Conference I couldn't stop smiling for a week; this feeling of space inside to alter and adapt. Meeting the men there: like a whole new sex. Open to each other, really listening, really meeting. Space to move and change - & also a damn-sight more real awareness of the position of women, of gays, of the difference between oppressed & oppressor, however unwilling that oppressor is."

THESE BITS WERE PUT TOGETHER BY CAMBRIDGE MEN AGAINST SEXISM. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THEM. IF YOU DO, OR EVEN IF YOU DON'T, PLEASE CONTACT US FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. PHONE: 43540.

"PEOPLE NOT OBJECTS. PEOPLE NOT ROLES. In so many situations I feel myself only being able to relate to other people and they to me, in certain stereotypic, channelled ways. There is no permissible fluidity of contact, rigidity divides and isolates us. I feel that we must make ourselves aware of our potential as individuals and collectively, & must not be ground down and repressed by conformist expectations of 'appropriate' or 'normal' behaviour and feelings."

Love SEX hate Sexism

"Traditional relationships with women (ie. monogamous and heterosexual) frighten me. I don't want to exclude myself from affection with others. I don't want to be half of 'thick & somebody'." "Traditional relationships with men don't satisfy me. I must both parties hide their affection for each other for fear that one might think the other is gay." "Society forces women to develop their gentleness & men their strength. The Women's movement has enabled women to develop their strength too. If men can't develop their gentleness, they are denying half their potential as human beings."

"I spent a period when unemployed living at my parents' house. In order to occupy myself I took over the kitchen while my mother looked after my bed-ridden Grandmother. After a while my interests and my topics of conversation revolved around:

A: The weather

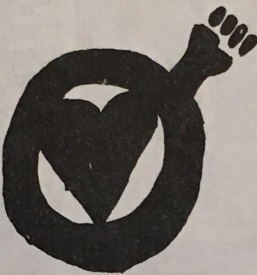
B: The price of tomatoes

C: What was on T.V. last night.

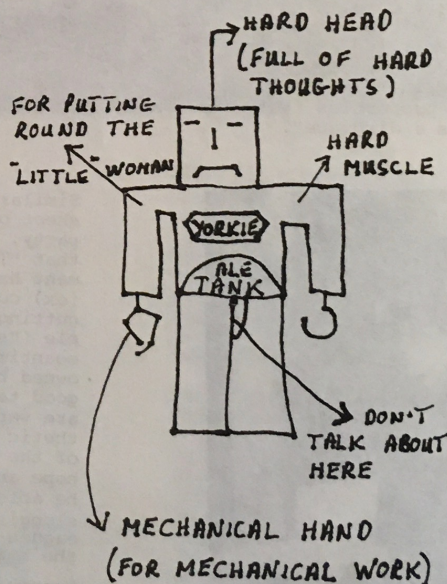
I was bored and wanted better things. It did not occur to me for a long time afterwards that nearly 50% of the population lived such an existence and regard it as natural. It was just that I was entitled to something better because I'm a man."

"Am very aware of the mental & physical distance men are expected to put between one another. If one offends another male's body space they often feel embarrassed or threatened & if one talks with compassion or tenderness towards another, the response is similar. As a result I feel alienated from my own sex much of the time."

In traditional relationships between men and women, the woman is robbed of independence and often confidence and the male who is required to mechanically adopt these aspects must stifle his feelings other than those of aggression in order that he is seen to be acting out his required image 'correctly'."



MEN'S VIEW OF MAN



- 1) HARD
- 2) SHARP
- 3) IN CONTROL

HOWEVER

- 1) BORING
- 2) STUNTED
- 3) TRAGIC
- 4) POWER MAD

COULD BE

- 1) WARM.
- 2) LOVING.
- 3) GENTLE.

"Why did I join? Because I feel/felt that I can love women, but not men. Because I want to learn to live with people and stop manipulating. Because I want to learn the strength and gentleness from being with other men. Because male violence frightens me. Because I hate what I see (think I see) a man's world does to women (first and foremost) and men. Because I want to learn about being a man not a machine. MEN NOT MACHOS."

"All right", you say, "you've said what you think, so what are you doing about it?" Firstly we are trying to recognise our own sexism and become real people ourselves. Then we must look for a way to show men that it's permissible, and indeed much better, to develop the gentle side of their characters. Do any men want to join us, because no one can do this alone. Also anyone please give us your ideas about how to do it."

PARKSHAC is not a name which figures prominently in the CEN or in Council Minutes, but down the bottom of Thompson's Lane, in those streets huddled together in the shadow of the gigantic 450 place Park St Multistorey Car Park and sandwiched between Jesus Lane, Bridge Street, Jesus Green and the river, tongues are wagging.

Why? Because Parkshac is not just aimed at stopping the authorities from making mistakes; we are demanding that once they have been shown to have made a mistake, they should be forced to put it right. An obvious enough democratic right, but in our society, revolutionary. Our aim, quite simply, is to close the Park Street Multistorey and replace it with homes. We should like to get back the hundred odd houses that were so brutally bulldozed away by the City as part of a grand master plan for Cambridge, prepared in the 1940s and long since abandoned.

An unlikely enough prospect, you might think - well, who knows what legal and planning difficulties the residents can make for the Council until they try - and this, combined with effective publicity has been enough to get the cars removed from Butt Green and Midsummer Common.

Our first approach has been to try and see just what we could find out about polluting effects of the multistorey on the neighbouring houses. Of course the immediate impact is obvious. Long lines of cars queueing in front of peoples' houses every Saturday and during Summer and Christmas peaks. Think of all the dirt and noise and smell this creates and remember that we have to live with this every day of our lives. But none of this cuts much ice with the bureaucrats; after all, they say, there are streets where people have to put up with much worse.

HEALTH RISK

So we started looking at what conditions are like inside the building. When the car park is full and the barriers manned quite frequently, several cars want to leave at the same time. The City charges a sliding scale to discourage long stay parkers which involves "clocking" every car out, and, since there is no standard charge, inevitably nobody has the correct change. Quite a queue can build up this way INSIDE the multistorey, and conditions for staff are atrocious - just imagine half a dozen or so angry and impatient motorists revving up their engines in desperation and frustration as they queue to leave that horrendous concrete and metal sandwich. And people have to work in these conditions for hours on end, to collect the money. Some years ago now, the Council noticed that there was a health risk and fitted

extractors. We are checking to see what the situation is now by taking samples and by noting just how often a queue builds up inside the building.

As for the houses next door, we had always known that one resident in particular was suffering more than his fair share of dirt and grime. It was therefore no surprise for us to learn that all the fumes from the dirty giant next door are being extracted into his garden. None other than the former Conservative MP for Cambridge, David Lane, had already suggested that this resident might sue the Council for the nuisance it was causing by discharging all that dirt and dust. Four years ago, the Council did carry out a pollution check in the garden. No figures have been provided yet but we have been informed that in the Council's opinion the pollution is no worse than a busy main road.

Apparently, for the council, this is a perfectly satisfactory state of affairs. Comment please, you friends of the earth.

PROMISES

Recently this enterprising resident tried his luck again and this time, the Council responded by promising to put some measuring filters up near the exhausts to measure the solids in the air. It will be interesting to compare these results with our records of what conditions are like inside the building. If the Council refuses to make its results available to us, or if it turns out that no readings have been taken on days when conditions were bad, we will be doing our own checks. Any tips from readers with expert knowledge will be gratefully received..

We have tried not to ignore the broader implications of our campaign. On February 9 we held a meeting at 26 Lower Park Street to discuss the Structure Plan. Although we circulated 250 copies of a newsletter, the response was as for every other meeting that there has been on the Structure Plan. Still, we are going ahead with a representation hoping that as the public examinations proceed, people will sit up and take an interest. Hopefully they will agree with what we are saying. We are criticising the expansionist plans of both City and County to build yet more chain store type shopping centres in Cambridge. To make these work the County Council proposes a ten year programme to build 2,100 MORE parking spaces, that is approximately five more multistorey car parks the size of Park Street. We propose that

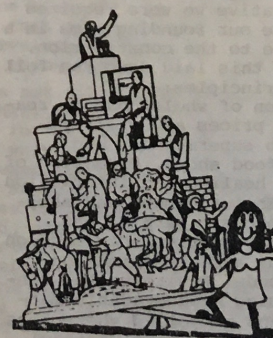
this policy should be reversed, and that the number of spaces in multi-storeys should be reduced. Of course for us the first step should be the closure of the Park Street Multistorey. But we oppose just as strongly all the mad schemes for redevelopment of the KITE which involves building two multistoreys, at least, in a residential district at a cost of over 10 million pounds to somebody, probably the ratepayer. If all this land was devoted instead to housing, there would be a massive influx of families with young children into the Centre and there could then be no question of closing either Brunswick or Park Street Schools. Perhaps this is just the situation the authorities want to avoid.

POWLEY

EX

For instance, Councillor Powley has paid our proposals the following tribute in the Cambridge Evening News:-

"We would simply not entertain this idea at all at any time whatsoever. I will certainly not have the Council's Officers wasting their valuable time even looking at this idea." This reaction convinced us that it was worthwhile to proceed. What is Powley frightened of? What is it that the Council's Officers might find out if they were to take the idea seriously? We are not very sure. Could it be that there is no reason at all why the Park Street Multistorey should not be closed down and the hundred or so families thrown out of their homes allowed to return to the street in which they used to live.





AND NOW...Part Two of the article the first part of which appeared in Issue 8. NOW READ ON.....

Arjuna presently consists of 13 member/workers. We all joined for different reasons and here I try to give a picture of how our diverse aims and ideals blend to make the distinctive entity of ARJUNA.

Where do Arjuna workers come from? Well, contrary to popular misconceptions we're not all ex students - only 4 of our present workers went to university. The rest came from a variety of skilled and unskilled jobs, or simply straight off the dole. We're predominantly middle class (although this is slowly changing) for those who groove on class distinctions. Our ages range from 21 to 34. This means we have a mixture of people who have worked 'out there in the real world' and don't particularly like what they found there and those who haven't sampled working O.T.I.T.R.W. but prefer to start off in a co-operative set up. Our working methods are unconventional and experimental to a certain degree. This is definitely an attraction to people with lively minds who wish to put their ideals into a practical context whilst also earning a wage. And we mustn't forget that one of the biggest reasons people join is because they eat and believe in the virtues of wholefoods. Being an Arjuna worker is to take part in spreading the awareness of and availability of such foods. Which is not to say we're all holier-than-thou pure food fanatics; rumour has it that some have been seen eating chips and chocolate (fortunately not at the same time).

AIMS AND IDEALS

When we registered as a workers co-operative we were required to state our founding aims in a preamble to the constitution. Briefly this laid down the following principles:-
Provision of wholefoods at reasonable prices as an alternative to supermarkets and health food shops. Promotion of natural healing and information on it. Encouragement and support of organic farming and gardening, particularly through providing a sales point for those foods. Environmental concern, using biodegradable materials and recycling where possible. Promoting less wasteful and animal protein based food production. Worker control of businesses and industry through smaller and non-hierarchical units with minimum bureaucracy. Education of our customers about our food - how it's produced, nutritional content etc. Support for other co-operatives especially local ones. Providing a living wage for shorter than average week in decent conditions. The sharing of responsibilities between all our workers. We can supply a full duplicated version of these aims to anyone interested.



NEW DIRECTIONS

Since then new ideas and aims have developed. In particular we have found that working so closely together without conventional power structures leads to tensions and conflicts which are glossed over in situations where 'everybody knows their place'. To reduce these and learn from them we have experimented with group therapy. This has undoubtedly made it easier to communicate emotion in Arjuna, less barriers now existing between 'working' and 'private' lives. Problems don't stop when you step into your workplace and so often it makes working harder when those problems fester away all day. Physical health too has come under our collective gaze. We provide information on natural healing for our customers through books and by referral to local practitioners. We have created flexible working hours with many people working a 4 day week and getting a living wage for it. Holidays have gradually got longer, if you're prepared to save up. Last year saw our workers in America, Africa, and India.

External Contacts

As a workers co-operative run on a collective basis we believe in spreading our ideas. To this end are members of two organisations:-
The Industrial Common Ownership Movement, which helped us become a co-operative, after which we decided to participate in its activities which are; to promote the setting up of co-operatives, changeover of present businesses to co-operative working by promoting and providing information and education about co-operatives combined with pressure on Parliament and other central bodies to provide greater opportunities for establishing co-operatives. They have already helped to produce a Bill in Parliament to help co-operatives and are now about to open a Co-operative college in Leeds to further education on all aspects of co-operation.

We belong also to the Federation of Southern Wholefood Collectives. This body tries to be politically active in informing customers about the economic and working conditions

involved in the production, distribution and retailing of food. We keep in contact with similar federations in Scotland, the North and the South Coast. Last year this co-operation led to the production of a special food politics issue of the magazine Undercurrents. Arjuna workers and other wholefood workers from round the country worked on that.



Local activity

We allow community groups to use our facilities, like our duplicator, or by putting up a poster in our window advertising some event or a service. We're also directly involved in some local groups, especially Strawberry Fair. The shop premises are used for activities ranging from cookery courses to encounter groups. Arjuna workers are active in Friends of the Earth, the Soil Association, Men against sexism, and women's self help groups.

No one label would suit our collective viewpoint, and I doubt that we'd want a label hung round us anyway. We find the practical expression of our ideals and aims in our working environment and in our outside contacts. We like Arjuna to be a lively, independent place. That makes it more a lifestyle than "just a job", and let's hope that our example encourages other people to see that such things are possible and learn to take greater control of their own lives.





OBITUARY

page 13

To the great relief of many people in Cambridge, John Powley lost his seat on the council in the recent local elections. Grapevine's political analyst, Hestor Wright-Daly, outlines Powley's contribution to Cambridge:

Powley's political career has been characterised by remarkable consistency. With tireless efforts he has sought to:

- deprive Cambridge of new public housing
- sell municipally-owned land and houses
- oppose the Community Land Bill (which returns some of the value from property development to the community)
- cut the budget and staff of the city's only housing advice centre
- raise council rents
- curtail Cambridge's own publicly employed builders, the Direct Labour Force.

As a good tory, Powley stood for the reduction of public expenditure. In May 1974, for instance, he opposed the purchase by the council of several private properties, saying: "if the council bought houses offered to them the supply of available houses would be reduced, prices would be increased, and young people would not be able to buy their own homes." A touching story - but untrue. Public ownership guarantees that there are houses in the public housing stock, while market forces mean long vacancies during periods of slack demand. In addition, local authorities can often split up large houses into smaller flats and thereby increase the number of dwellings available. As for young people; if they can afford to buy a home they must be earning over £80 per week and have over £1000 saved up - they

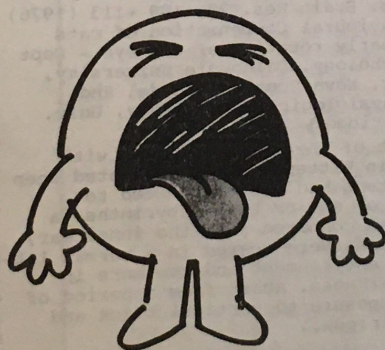
can look after themselves.

In a similar vein, Powley opposed the community land bill in May 1975. In the City Board and then the full council he moved that the bill "was against the public interest... involves an unnecessary rate burden and must involve an increase of local government staff". The Bill was intended to nationalise some development land, and curb the notorious property speculation of the early 1970's. As it turned out, the bill had most of its teeth drawn in parliament, and is now pretty much a lame duck. Powley's condemnation of the act didn't stop him trying to use it to purchase land in the Kite for redevelopment; ironically, it was failure to carry out the provisions of the act correctly which gave Powley's Kite plan its biggest blow so far.

The next best thing to minimising the role of public housing in the city is to stop people from finding out about it. So in 1975 Powley suggested that the one and only Housing Advice Centre should have its annual budget and its staff cut mercilessly. The Centre published a report a year later to show how wrong Powley was: "The vast majority of the public are unaware of the alternatives offered by the different forms of tenure, types of mortgage etc... Until the Housing Aid and Advice Centre... came into existence, local people were too quickly being advised to consult their solicitor for a solution".

Direct Labour, the city's own building employees, was another target for the Powley axe. In July 1975 Powley moved a ritual denunciation, saying "that no further time or money be expended on this exercise (the expansion of the Direct Labour force)". Though his motion was

defeated, he needn't worry. Compared to similar local authorities, Cambridge spends relatively little on maintenance and has no housebuilding under direct labour. The result is that when a firm goes bust while it is building for the council, there are no council employees ready to complete the work. This is exactly what has happened on Histon Rd., where a large number of houses are lying uncompleted for precisely this reason.



Moving from expenditure to income, we see Powley in November 1971 asking the Housing Committee to sell off council land it could not afford to redevelop because of rising costs. By July 1972 he was recommending that it be made easier for council tenants to buy their own homes. In July 1975 he was stating that "as a matter of principle" part of a council site at Cherry Hinton should be privately developed. Recently we have seen land that was promised as much-needed playground space (in Baldock Way, for example) sold off for development in order to finance expensive house purchases on the Kite. Despite being a city with a dreadful record of violent crime, the street lighting

in Cambridge is poor, and is turned off at night at a time which amazes visitors from elsewhere; another way of saving money. It is rumoured that Powley's cutting down the staff in the Guildhall may have been what led to the legal blunder over the Kite.

The area in which Powley has been most vociferous (apart from the Kite) has been council house rents. In October 1970 he was seconding a motion to increase rents by 14%; a year later he was welcoming the Conservatives massive rent increases (disguised under the name of "fair rents") as "a most practical step towards removing inequalities of treatment between the tenants of municipal and privately owned housing, and providing homes for the truly needy." This is a gem of reasoning. The public sector is precisely intended for those who haven't got the money to find a house on the open market. Raising council house rents can only increase the number of the "truly needy".

In 1975 Powley was still proposing that the Housing Services committee "consider the raising of rents as a matter of urgency in the light of current statements of national spokesmen". Any City Treasurer will tell Powley that about 70% of expenditure on the housing revenue account is the repayment of loans financiers have graciously made available to the local authority. In other words, it is the mechanisms of private investment, in particular rising interest rates, which produce the financial problems of council housing, not intrinsic failings of public provision.

Powley once declared an interest during a council debate on private landlords (that is, he must be one himself). So it's no wonder that he supports private development "as a matter of principle".

Powley was not liked much in the Guildhall, but he was respected for the incredible amount of work he did. He attended vast numbers of committee meetings, and in 1978 he was chairman of the City Board, the Central Developments Action Panel and the Housing Services Committee - for the third year running. From April 1976 to March 1977 he claimed £707 in attendance allowances.

One man doesn't make a system, and there are other Tories on the city council as well as Powley. Gough-Goodman, who was deputy leader of the Tory group under Powley, is another unpleasant character who is worth watching out for. But the departure of one fanatic may do Cambridge a lot of good.

SLAUGHTER!!

YOU PAY FOR THIS!

People from different parts of the country converged on Cambridge for an anti-vivisection demonstration on May 5th.

Grapevine looks at some of the issues behind the demonstration:

Throughout the world an estimated 400,000 animals a day die as a result of vivisection, and this figure is already at an annual rate of 5%. Anti-vivisection campaigners put the number of animal deaths per week in British laboratories at 100,000. These animals are used to test, oven-cleaners, lipsticks, weed killers, crayons, candles, shampoos floor polish, weapons, paint - the list is endless, yet there are only 14 Home Office Inspectors to supervise over 50 million experiments performed on live animals each year. 85% of these experiments are conducted without anaesthetic.

Below are details of some of the experiments carried out during the last few years in Cambridge laboratories:

1. Two kittens when a week old had the lid of the right eye sewn together. There is no mention of an anaesthetic being given for this. The eyes remained closed for a few months. The right eye of another kitten was closed for 9 months (presumably by lid stitching). Later the cats were anaesthetized and the skull opened and a chemical solution injected into the brain. After this the lids of the so-called 'deprived' eye were reopened. The cats were allowed to live one more day and then were anaesthetised and a chemical solution containing paraformaldehyde was perfused through the heart and then the animals' brain was removed.

(Neuroscience Letters, 1(1975), 271-276. The Physiological Laboratory, University of Cambridge)

2. A rat was anaesthetised and a hole bored in its skull and an electrode (piece of steel wire) was pushed into a part of the brain called the Locus coeruleus. An electric current was passed through the electrode for 20 secs so that the Locus Coeruleus was damaged. A couple of weeks later the rat was trained to press a lever in its cage for food. When it had learnt this, after about 10 days of 25 minute sessions daily, a new regime was put into effect. No food was delivered into the food cup when the rat pressed the lever. This must have frustrated and upset such an intelligent creature considerably. It gradually left off pressing the lever. When it no longer pressed it at all for as long as two minutes, the so-called extinction session was ended.

(Phys. & Behaviour, 1978 Vol. 20: 709 - 716. The Psychological Laboratory, Downing Street, Cambridge)



3. A solution of Sodium Lauryl Sulphate, having a very irritant effect on the eye, was instilled into one eye of each of several rabbits. Then the eye was washed out with water at varying periods of time. Some rabbits had the eye washed out 20 seconds after the instilling of the irritant solution, and others 40 seconds afterwards and others 100 seconds afterwards. The experimenters looked at the eyes from time to time over a period of a few weeks and noted the amount of damage done. In some cases the cornea was opaque, in other cases the eye was swollen and inflamed, and sometimes the whole eye was grossly damaged. The rabbits were given no anaesthetic, and rabbits cannot blink. Intense pain must have been endured by some of them for several weeks..

(J. Soc. Cosmet. Chem. 27, 301-306, 1976. Huntingdon Research Centre, Huntingdon, Cambs.)



MYXOMATOSIS

A baby rabbit with eyes full of pus Is the work of scientific

SPIKE

In order to find out what happened when one of their eyes was rotated, by surgical means through about 90°, Blakemore and others rotated one of the eyes of a cat called Albert through 102°, and one of the eyes of a cat called Victoria through 77°. The operation was done when they were kittens aged 12 days. Afterwards, they were kept in an illuminated room for 18 hours each day. After 9 months they were given behavioural tests for 10 months. We are told they were able to avoid contact with objects when moving through an obstacle course' when using only the rotated eye. Further tests were given to find out how well they could discriminate between horizontal and vertical lines..

(Exp. Brain Res. 25, 109 -113 (1976) - Behavioural Compensation of cats after early rotation of one eye - Dept of Psychology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada and The Physiological Laboratory, Univ. of Cambridge.)

The part of the brain concerned with vision in kittens was investigated when the kittens had been subjected to removal of one or both labyrinths (a mechanism connected with the inner ear). Two kittens were reared in a normal laboratory environment and two more in total darkness, apart from a period of daily exposure to vertical black and white stripes..

Several days after birth four kittens had their labyrinths removed after anaesthetic. These organs, concerned with balance, were destroyed by means of a dental drill. Two of the kittens, referred to as 1 and 3, had one labyrinth removed. The other two, referred to as 2 and 4, had both labyrinths removed. Kittens 1 and 2 were reared in a normal laboratory environment and operated on when about 3 weeks old. Kittens 3 and 4 were housed, with their mothers, in total darkness, except for a few seconds of dim red light daily for feeding and cleaning



and daily 2 hour periods of exposure to vertical black and white stripes. They spent about 70 hours watching these stripes for a few weeks before they reached the age of 13 weeks.

After further operations, salt solution was pumped through the heart, and the kittens' brains removed. The experimenter said 'we found no difference between labyrinthectomised and intact kittens'.

Journal of Physiology Vol. 236 No.2 pp.373-85 - University of Cambridge.



Physiologists at Cambridge surgically damaged the brains of monkeys and observed that subsequently the animals 'stumbled around their cages, bumping into walls and hitting their heads on protruding objects. If they had to steady themselves by catching hold of the wire, they reached too short, too far, or in the wrong direction, missed their target and fell; they appeared quite insensitive to hard pinches on one or both sides of their bodies and often let their limbs droop lifeless; they made no attempt to reach for food and showed no interest in it if it was put into their hands, although they took it greedily if it was pressed against their lips' (J. Exp. Psych., 1969).

Behavioural scientists at the Medical Research Council's Unit at Madingley, Cambridge studied the effects on infant monkeys of separation from their mothers.

Two twice-separated infants died before they were a year old and one long-separation infant died at four weeks and 'no definite cause of death was found'.

Some infants were eventually reunited with their mothers but the 'effects of separation were still apparent four weeks later' (Animal Behaviour, Vol 19, 1971) - It has been admitted (personal communication) that the zoologist who performed these experiments had not been fully licensed for them because the Home Office had considered them as being outside the Act.

A Psychologist at Cambridge totally blinded a monkey by cutting out those areas of her brain primarily concerned with vision. 'Six years ago, a minkey, Helen, had the visual cortex surgically removed. Since then, she has been able to recognise nothing' he writes. He goes on - 'our work was interrupted when we moved from Cambridge to the Oxford laboratory. Helen moved with us, but I had a thesis to finish and she was left to her own devices for about ten months - such devices, that is, as she could manage in a small cage'. He makes further observations on Helen's behaviour - 'Helen bumped into any and every obstacle, she collided with my legs and she several times fell into the pond'.

(New Scientist, 30 March 1972)

Victims of Science, Richard Ryder - Page 69 - 70. Exp 11,13 and 14 Pub. Davis-Poynter

Several institutions in Cambridge are registered under the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876, to carry out experiments on animals; these include:

Agricultural Research Council, Institute of Animal Physiology,
Animal Research Station, Huntingdon Road.
(ARC)

Central Veterinary Laboratory,
Maddingley Road

Medical Research Council, Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Hills Road

Strangeways Research Laboratory

University of Cambridge Registered Medical Veterinary Scientific Depts

College of Arts and Technology

Fish Toxicity Laboratory, Great Ouse River Authority

National Institute of Agricultural Botany, Huntingdon Road

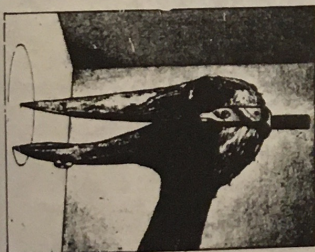
Agrochemical Division CIBA-GEIGY (UK) LIMITED, Whittlesford, Cambridge

Psychology Laboratories, Downing Street Cambridge.

If you want to find out more about the campaign to end vivisection and factory farming, contact:

Animal Aid,
111 Estridge Way, Tonbridge,
Kent. (0732 - 364546)
and subscribe to: The Beast
2 Blenheim Crescent, London W11.
(01-727-4712) and Lair c/o
B/M SEQUEL, London, WC1V 6XX.

STOP PRESS: Hans Ruesch's book Slaughter of the Innocents has just been published, price £1.25 a copy. Suppressed in the USA. This book deserves the widest circulation. Published by Futura Publications.



ARRESTS IN CHILE

The Cambridge Chile Committee for Human Rights reports that 400 people were arrested in Santiago, the capital of Chile, on May 1st.

Among those arrested were Consuela and Fernando Jose Castillo, daughter and son of Fernando Castillo, who was a lecturer in the Dept. of Architecture at Cambridge from 1974 to 1976.

Despite warnings from friends, the family returned to Chile last year, thinking that they could do their people more good inside the country than in Britain.

A massive attempt to put pressure on the Chilean government is needed to secure their release. Contact Andy on 311750 for more information.

THE SOFT BOYS...A Can of Bees

It might be a good idea to begin by dismissing both Ian Penman's N.M.E. 'review' of this album and the superficial paragraph in this week's Stop Press, as neither touch on the content of the record. Ian Penman is the weak-spot in the N.M.E's armoury because he so obviously dislikes rock music and has no conception of either its form or content. He asks for salvation from a 'daft, jumbled' and coarse artform, but his salvation would be a negation of that form. He is misguided. Similarly, Stop Press are misguided if they feel the Soft Boys are 'set to be big'; they won't be. The band has a degree of self destruction in its make up that will prevent them from intruding too far into mass-consciousness. And so to the facts of the case...

'Give it to the Soft Boys' opens Side One; it is tough and strenuous, but a failure. The riff borders on the ponderous, and the song is far better live. 'The Pigworker' is better and 'Human Music' begins to take us into the album. This song improves on further listening and is partly to the same psychedelic tendencies that 'The Rat's Prayer' displays. Vague hints of The Pretty Things, H.P. Lovecraft and, alas, early Floyd. Only on 'Leppo and the Jooves' do we get a clearer hint of the band's potential. The music is pendulous and elliptical, the lyrics giving a sense of indignant confusion. Side Two comes in disguised as a revelation but is merely a distillation of what the album could have been. This distillation is called 'Do the Chisel' and is superb. 'Sandra's Having Her Brain Out' is a beautifully crafted song, with excellent harmonies, and 'Cold Turkey' is what it has always been, Andy Metcalf's bass particularly fine. From here on though, the album dies by degrees. 'School Dinner Blues' is too confused, and 'Wading Through Your Ventilator' tends towards messiness and reveals discrepancies in the guitar tunings. The Lady Mitchell Hall gig was one of the band's best, but these two tracks are grossly inadequate as album closers.

There is too much blind admiration for this band and it is no substitute for objective criticism. The Soft Boys are not innovative, they are inventive, and dozens of other bands are their equals. This is a slightly disappointing album, full of unspecified eclecticism but low on inspired art. I did buy it though.

Graeme Plunkett.



Drug Abuse

Alex Leys, who committed suicide a few months ago, was just one more drug addict who couldn't cope with life - or life couldn't cope with him - here in this city.

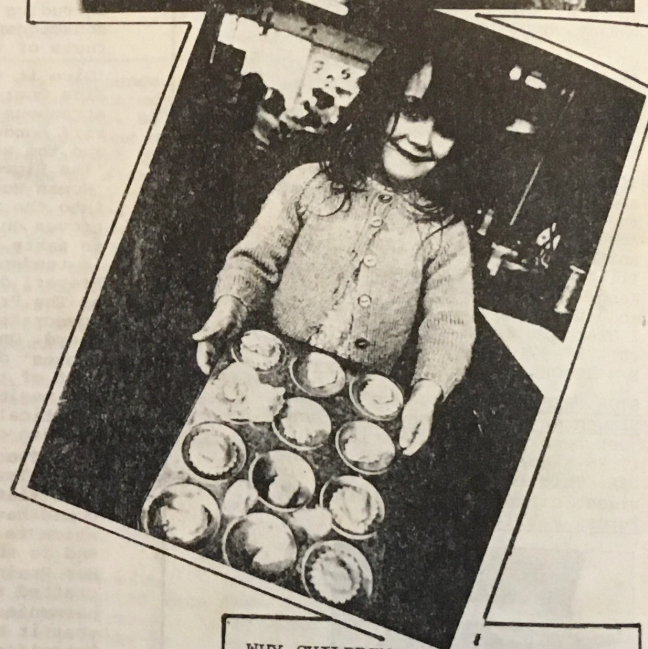
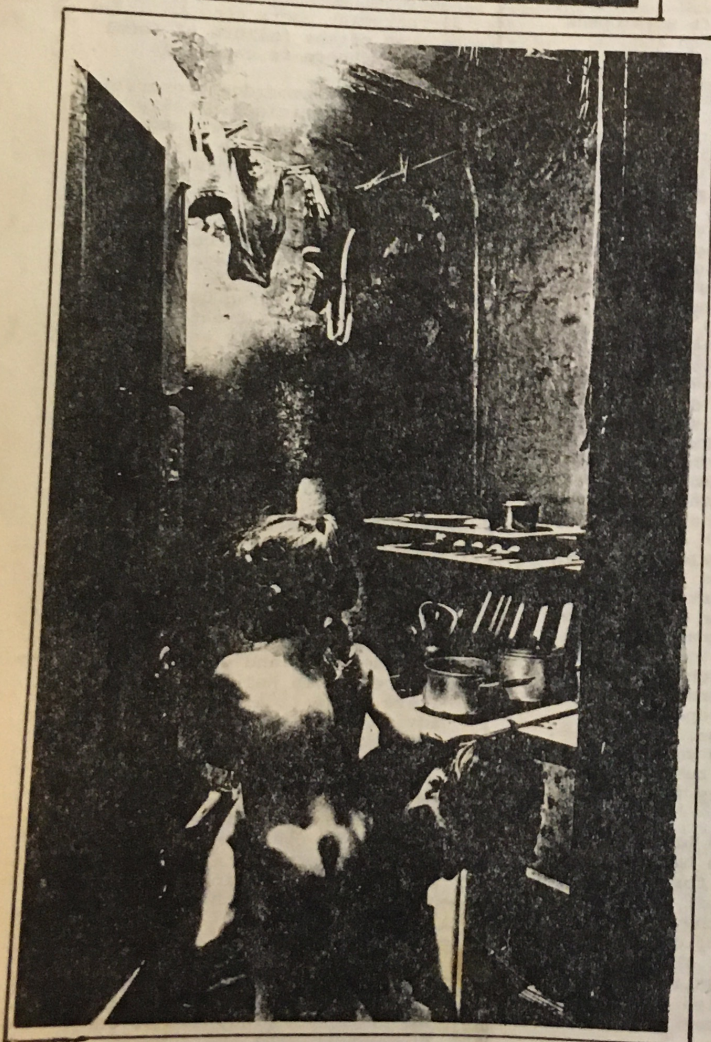
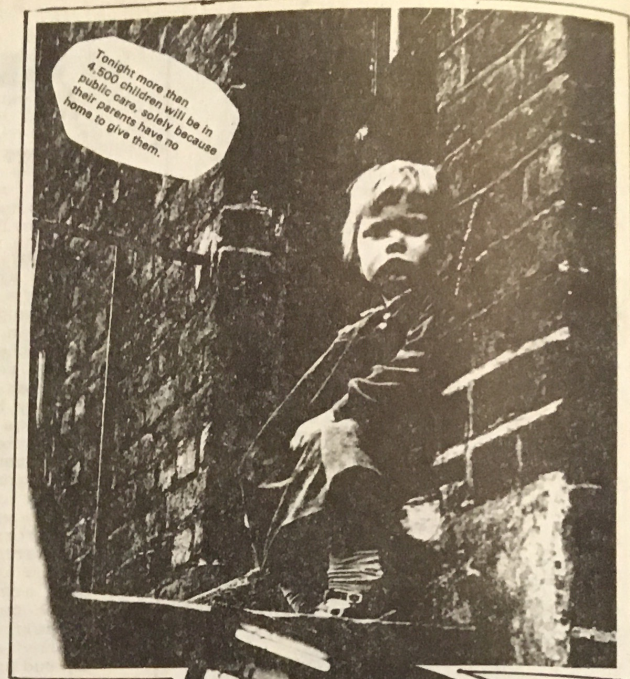
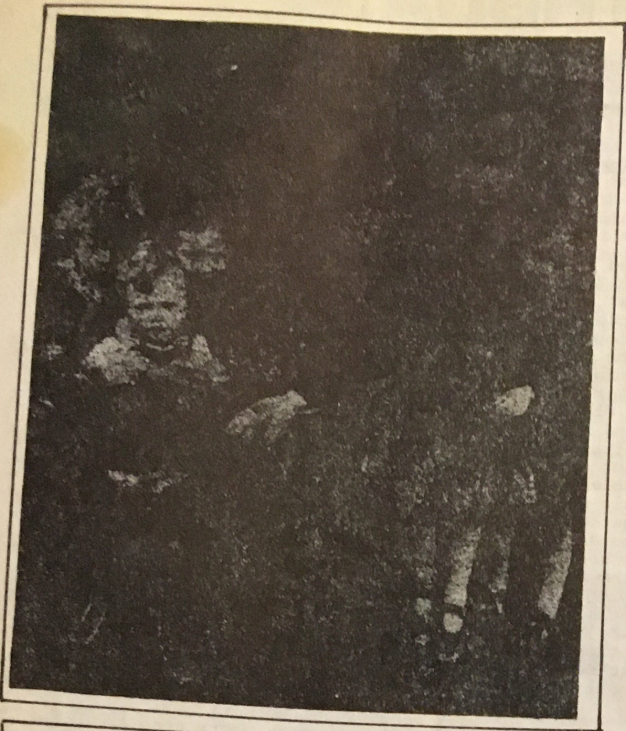
His death prompted a few people to call together professional and voluntary workers, users and ex-users, parents and friends, to talk about drug abuse in Cambridge and what can be done about it. We have tried to pull together the widely different views expressed at the meeting into a set of constructive proposals. Bear in mind while reading them:

- 1) that drug users are individuals, just like anyone else, and we must relate to them as individuals;
- 2) that drug users nevertheless have certain generic, but not common, features, notably an extreme distrust of the professional worker;
- 3) that many users come to drugs because of the failure of local neighbourhoods to care and respect;
- 4) that the Cambridge prescribing clinic is criticised harshly by many users, ex-users and concerned people because of its lack of resources and strictly medical approach;
- 5) that drug abuse is as pressing a social disease as it ever was, although public concern and media coverage have diminished a lot since the 1960's;
- 6) that not all drug use is abuse; many users treat drugs with great stability and good sense;
- 7) that there is no immediate willingness to invest public money in caring for drug users or working with them;
- 8) that we must not forget the families of drug users and the support they need;
- 9) that in addressing the problem of drug abuse we acknowledge our own dependencies, whatever they may be.

We hope to make more contact with users, and their parents and families, and with people interested in helping. We believe there is a need for an advice/drop in/caring service, operated from a centre, accessible and on the street, run by a full-time worker and voluntary staff. We believe that this centre should seek to develop the interests and sense of worth of all people involved, by running activities and linking up with resources in the community.

For instance, if someone was interested in art, then they might make posters for a play, design a magazine, and so on. We bear in mind the further need for education in schools, to prevent drug taking. And the need for an after-care home for ex-users.

Will people interested in these ventures, to plug the gap in current provision, please contact either Lavina Hawes, 36a James St., Tel: 62777, or Julian Viles, Tel: 50365.



WHY CHILDREN ARE A REVOLUTIONARY FORCE

"Is it really so much a child needs - the right to have space and time for exploration, so that each can grow at its own rhythm and become part of society in a natural way...to feel what they feel, to have their experiences accepted as valid, and to be responded to in their own context...to live lives that are their own, not someone else's...the right to have happy parents, whom society accepts and values?"

Is it really so much? It is indeed. Ask our society that sets each creative child on the conveyor belt, and deals it as it moves along a hammer-blow here and a twist there, till it becomes the anonymous mass component that the state needs, and see society's response... see its priorities.

Yet each one of us is a member of 'society'. And only children and the sheer brilliance of children can save each one of us from the sickness and the death that we choose to call living."

- Leila Berg